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 401 CYPRESS AVE. SANFORD

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

National Association FOR THE Advancement of Colored People

Orlando, Fla.
 March 12, 1944

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Florida State Conference, NAACP

Dear Co-workers:

We are pleased at this time to report our activities for the first of the year 1943 - 44.

Since October we have been busy trying to help promote the work of the NAACP in our fair state. On our way up from West Palm Beach we stopped in Stuart and laid the foundation for a new branch there. Early in December we returned to Stuart and helped to complete the organization of the Martin County Branch, with 77 members. The local people defrayed our transportation expenses. Rev. H. T. Williams, pastor of the A. B. E. Church at Stuart and a former officer of the Brevard County Branch, rendered invaluable service in this effort.

In November we received a letter from Rev. E. J. Jackson, stating that he was making an effort to establish a branch at Belle Glade. In keeping with Rev. Jackson's request, we wrote to the local committee and encouraged them to complete the splendid work that they had started. We also sent the necessary literature. Just before Christmas Rev. Jackson reported that the organization had been completed with 57 members. During December also Rev. J. L. McFarland, president of the Ocala County Branch, assisted with the organization of a new branch at Haines City.

Late in November Mr. E. D. Shields of Arcadia asked our assistance in their efforts to complete the organization of a branch there. The people of Arcadia had made their first start over a year ago under the leadership of a Rev. Lloyd King. Unfortunately, however, Rev. King's leadership did not prove fruitful, and they had never been able to secure a charter. Mr. Shields at first asked that a state officer be sent to Arcadia to help get matters straight. Since Mr. Black of Lake Wales was nearest Arcadia, we immediately asked him to make a visit there. Later, however, we decided to attempt a satisfactory adjustment through correspondence. We therefore sent Mr. Shields the application blanks and necessary instructions. The folks there elected officers, signed the application, and mailed their report to us. We then wrote Miss Baker and explained in detail the unfortunate situation that existed in Arcadia. We urged that the Board overlook any irregularities in this case and grant a charter. Although Mr. Shields had reported that many harsh unpleasant remarks had been made about the NAACP, we felt that much of this lost confidence would be restored if the people there could secure a charter. Last month we received a letter from Miss Baker, stating that the Board had voted to issue a charter to the De Soto County Branch.

As a result of these efforts we are able to report a total of 24 branches, as compared with 20 branches last October.

Prior to our last Annual Meeting we wrote Mr. C. D. Rogers of the Central Insurance Company, and asked him to use his influence in an effort to

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National Association

FOR THE

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WEST PALM BEACH
REV. L. J. JACKSON

get a branch started around Bradenton. In November Mr. Rogers wrote us that he had asked Rev. Davis to take the lead in the movement there. Mr. Rogers stated that they had over 40 members then, and he assured us that the organization would soon be completed. Mr. Rogers further stated that he had offered to pay Rev. Davis' expenses to our meeting in West Palm Beach, but other matters prevented his leaving at that time. We immediately mailed him a letter and literature to Mr. Rogers. Although we have not heard from him since then, we have reason to believe that the Manatee County Branch has been completed. If so, this would give us a total of 25 branches.

You will note that our success in securing new branches has come, not by the efforts of one individual, but through the co-operative efforts of a group. Since our state is so large, we feel that better results might be obtained by a committee of organizers than by a single state organizer. We recommend, therefore, that a Speakers Bureau, composed of workers from various sections of the state, be appointed to help promote the organization of new branches.

Last month we were invited to attend the Installation Services of the Ocala County Branch. They had a big mass meeting and an old fashioned barbecue. We found them progressing nicely under the energetic leadership of Rev. McFarland.

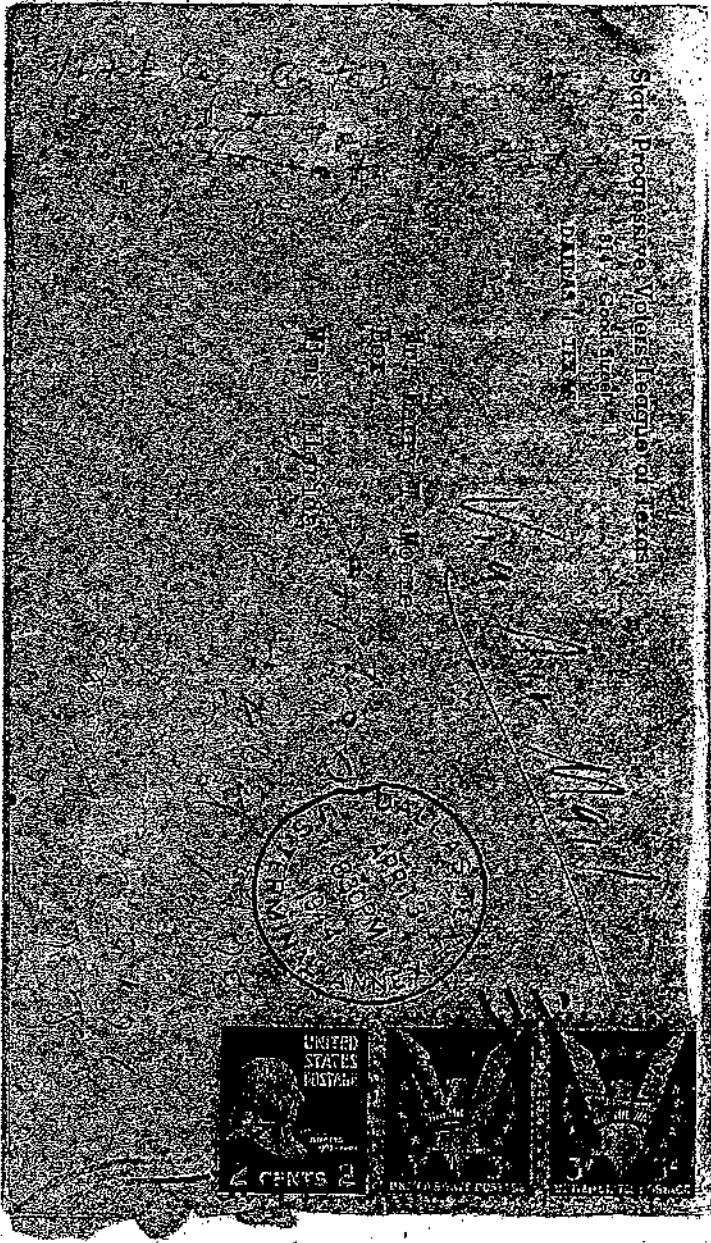
In keeping with a resolution adopted in West Palm Beach, we wrote a letter to the Palm County School Board, protesting the proposed plan to close all Negro schools in that county the latter part of October. We learned later that the Lake Wales Branch also protested strongly. As a result, the Lake Wales School was kept open.

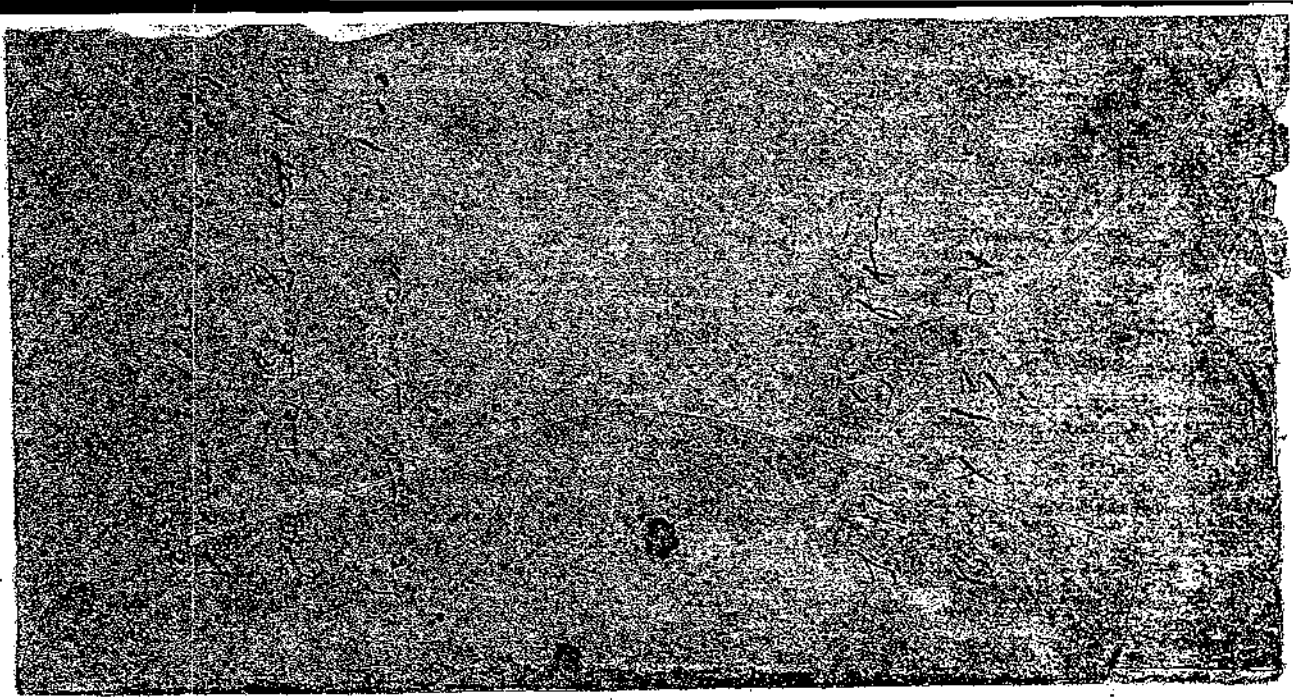
We find that the Pensacola and Panama branches have paid their registration fees each year since the Conference was organized in 1939. Although these branches have been unable to send delegates to our recent business sessions, we feel that they deserve representation on our State Board. Since Pensacola is the only branch in West Florida that is a member of the Conference, we feel the need of personal contact with that branch. If we are to launch a successful campaign for new branches in West Florida, we certainly need Pensacola's assistance. We recommend, therefore, that Mr. Solomon Brookins and Mr. James Green, presidents of the Pensacola and Panama branches, be appointed to our Board of Directors. You will note that the names of these men are already on our new letterheads. We ask that this act will not be regarded as a usurpation of authority by the president. We felt that a majority of our Board would understand the situation as we explained it above. Since we had to have more letterheads printed before this meeting, we merely did what we thought best on the spur of the moment.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to those who have given us such splendid co-operation in our efforts. We solicit your continued support for the great cause that we are trying to represent.

Yours for a greater NACP in Florida,

Harry T. Moore, President





LAW OFFICES
MCGILL & MCGILL
P. O. BOX 408
510 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
Please add our Unit No. 1
to our mailing address as
follows: Jacksonville, 1 Fl.
7 April 1944

Prof. Harry L. Moore
Box 4
Mims, Florida

Dear Prof. Moore:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., with reference to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Texas Primary case.

I do not see how any negro in Florida who has not already qualified to vote in the Democratic Primary may now qualify. The registration books of the State Democratic Primary, as you know, are closed and under the statute, no one may vote in the Primary Election unless he has been registered as required by the laws of the state. Prof. Porter, who as you state, has already registered as a Democrat, will certainly have a right to vote in the Democratic Primary Election in May. If he is denied the right to vote at that time he may institute suit for damages against the election officers who prevented him from voting.

The Supreme Court decision appears to have nullified the Texas Statute designed to prevent negroes from voting in the Democratic Primary on the ground of their color. It certainly is far reaching and if we will take advantage of it our white friends will be pleased. I am quite sure however that the decision as far reaching as it is, will be sidetracked by the southern states whose legislative halls are filled with those who have gotten there upon the shoulders of negroes.

This is not the first time, as you know, that the nation's highest court has set aside and vacated Texas Primary laws designed to disfranchise negroes. The case of Grovey v. Townsend in 1925 and Nixon v. Herndon in 1935, both were cases in which at the time they were rendered we felt sure had struck a death blow to the state of Texas or any southern state to attempt to pass a law denying the negro the right to vote in a primary election purely on account of his race, so I say you may expect the southern states to take measures quickly to overcome this last stab in their vitals by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Very truly yours,

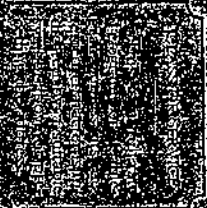
S. D. McGill

S. D. MCGILL — (H)

sdm/w

STAPLES

WESTERN UNION



WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO. NEW YORK
NEW YORK, N. Y., MAY 1, 1901
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES
SIR:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. in relation to the proposed extension of the Western Union Cable from New York to London.
I am sorry to hear that you are disappointed in the result of the recent meeting of the Cable Committee. I am sure, however, that the Committee's decision was based on the best of information available at the time.
The Cable Committee's decision was based on the fact that the proposed extension of the Cable from New York to London would require the construction of a new cable line from New York to London, which would be a very expensive proposition.
The Cable Committee's decision was also based on the fact that the proposed extension of the Cable from New York to London would require the construction of a new cable line from New York to London, which would be a very expensive proposition.
I am sure that you will understand the Cable Committee's decision in this regard.
Very respectfully,
J. P. Morgan
President of the Cable Committee

STATE PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE OF TEXAS

STATE HEADQUARTERS

814 1/2 Good Street Telephone T-9977

DALLAS 1, TEXAS

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H. M. MORGAN
Vice President

CARTER W. WESLEY
Secretary

O. E. FITZGERALD
Assistant Secretary

ROY D. WASHINGTON
Treasurer

ATTORNEY W. J. DURHAM
Counsel

12 April 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO - Mr. Harry T. Moore, Box 4, Mims, Florida

FROM - Maynard H. Jackson, President, State Progressive Voters League of Texas

SUBJECT - "Ozark Conference" of Southern Negro leaders on implementing the Supreme Court's recent decision in the Texas Democratic Primary Case.

There is danger that the Supreme Court's favorable 9 to 1 decision in the Texas Democratic Primary Case may prove to be a tragic loss, as has been the case in the Gaines' Decision. Attorney Thurgood Marshall, who addressed our State Voters League Convention last Monday, April 10, at Dallas, Texas, is fearful that lack of immediate action may nullify the potential benefits inherent in this historic decision. He, together with most of us, believes that the decision, so far as the legal aspects are concerned, cannot be circumvented. The danger lies in the possible failure of southern Negro leaders to organize the registered vote and wage a vigorous campaign during the coming primaries and the November elections.

Our primary concern has to do with solidarity or approximate unity, or at best, complete understanding of our various objectives and techniques.

As President of the Texas State organization, which joined the Texas N. A. A. C. P. in waging the continuous battle for an open primary before the Supreme Court, I feel impelled to call one or more forthright leaders from each of the affected states to meet together in a setting-up conference. Because of its central location, I am issuing the call to meet next Monday, April 17 at Hot Springs, Arkansas. The conference will begin about ten-thirty in the morning and headquarters will be at the Pythian Bathhouse and Sanitarium on Malvern Avenue. I shall precede you by several days and will be glad to make necessary arrangements for your accommodations if you telegraph or write me in care of the above address. You will profit by the relaxation, the bathhouse, etcetera, and we can also perform a great and lasting service to our people - matching thought and working out some basis for understanding and cooperation throughout the southern states.

I have dubbed the meeting "Ozark Conference." Please notify me at once at the Hot Springs address if you can be present with a chosen one or two from your State or if you will delegate a representative in your place.

Bring with you any men of your choice if you so wish. Enclosed is a list of the men who have been directly invited.

Cordially yours,

Maynard H. Jackson
Maynard H. Jackson

John J. Jones
Tuscarora, Texas

Rev. E. A. Adams, President
State Citizens Committee
Columbia, S. C.

Mr. James M. Rinton
Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Roscoe Danjee
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Mr. T. V. Mangum
Statesville, N. C.

Mr. Benjamin Blackburn, Sr.
Jackson, Mississippi

Mr. Carl A. Hall
Jackson, Mississippi

Mr. Daniel E. Byrd
New Orleans, La.

Carl W. Wesley
The Informer Newspapers
Houston, Texas

Carl Murphy
Afro-American Newspaper
Baltimore

C. A. Scott
Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Valmo Fellinger
San Antonio Register
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. E. W. Gilbert
Savannah, Georgia

Mr. J. E. Hobbs
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Harry T. Moore
Mima, Florida

Dr. John Robinson
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mr. F. B. Hollins
Birmingham, Alabama

Attorney Booker
Little Rock, Arkansas

Claude A. Barnett
Associated Negro Press
Chicago

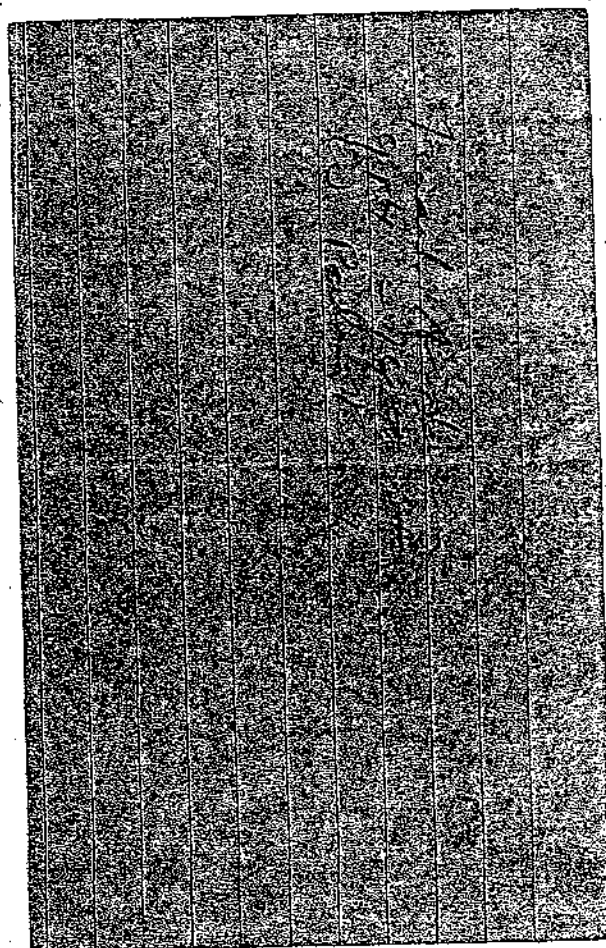
John T. Sangatcke
Chicago Defender
Chicago

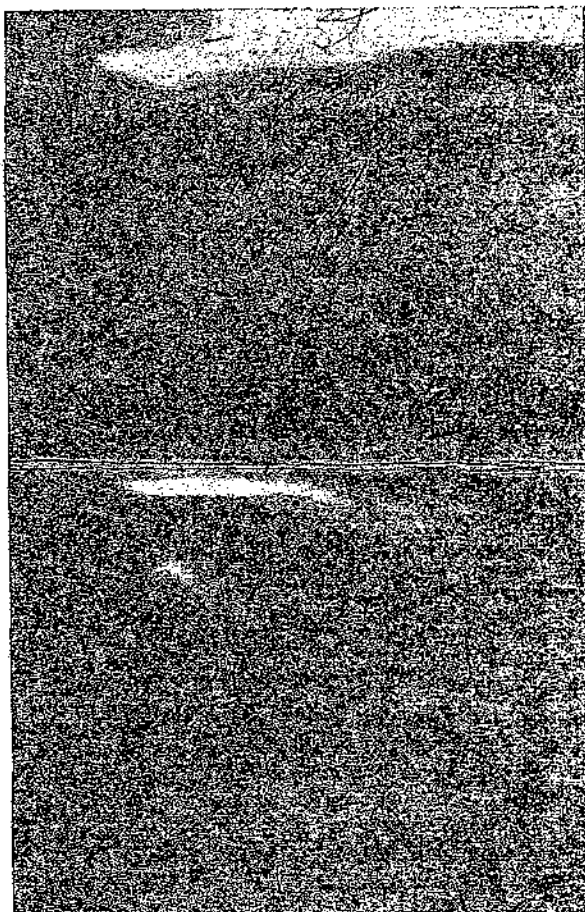
Adam Clayton Powell
The People's Voice
New York

C. A. Franklin
Kansas City Call
Kansas City

Editor
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

STAPLES®





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Recommendations

1. That we organize the Brevard County Progressive Negro Voters League.
2. That the organization be non-partisan.
3. That the officers shall be a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer.
4. That the Board of Directors shall consist of the officers named above, and other members that might be elected by the body.
5. That ~~each~~ ^{and heads of civic and fraternal organizations} pastor₁ in the county shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
6. Objectives of the Voters' League:
 - (1) To help promote the work of the State Voters' League.
 - (2) To carry on an intensive campaign for registration of Negro voters.
 - (3) To solicit the co-operation of the churches and various local organizations in an effort to get more Negroes registered.
 - (4) To check the records of candidates for political office and to make recommendations to Negro voters on the basis of such records.

Plan of Action

We recommend that each community follow the following procedure in our drive for registered Negro voters:

1. That a committee be organized in each community to help keep this matter before the people.
2. That each pastor will take a little time at each service to teach his congregation the importance of registering and voting.
3. That each class leader, deacon, or club leader be asked to urge his members to register and vote.
4. That ~~then~~ each local committee get a list of the registered voters in that particular community.
5. That the local committees be able to make reports to the County organization, so that we can determine our voting strength.

McGILL & McGUIRE

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



Prof. Harry L. Moore

Box 4

Mims, Florida

LAW OFFICES
McGILL & MCGILL
P. O. BOX 202
610 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

18 April 1944

Prof. Harry T. Moore
Box 4
Wims, Florida

Dear Prof. Moore:

When I returned to the office from Chicago yesterday I found your letter of the 11th inst., with enclosures in regards to the lynching of Willie Howard near Live Oak in January. I note also that the Grand Jury of Suwannee County will consider evidence looking to the conviction of those who are criminally responsible for this boy's death. The boy's father and mother too, for that matter, should certainly contact me or some other attorney on their behalf before they appear before the Grand Jury. I have no idea that any violence will be directed against either one of them. Nevertheless, their testimony before the Grand Jury should be as convincing as possible and I will be glad to talk with them any day before the Grand Jury considers the case.

With every good wish, I am,

Very truly yours,

S. D. McGill
S. D. MCGILL

sdm/w

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

My name is James Howard. I am thirty-six years of age. I lived in Live Oak from 1918 up to January 7, 1944. During that time I was a steady worker, doing saw mill work, driving trucks, farming, etc. In 1937 I married Lula Figg. We bought a home and settled down on the outskirts of Live Oak. We have at all times been good church members, belonging to the Missionary Baptist Church. I have been in school as far as the fourth grade. Our only child, Willie James Howard, was born on July 18, 1928. At the time of his death on January 2, 1944, he was in the tenth grade at school. From the time our boy was thirteen years of age, he had worked at odd jobs before and after school and during vacations. In the fall of 1943, he secured a part-time job with the Van Priest Dine Store in Live Oak. During the Christmas vacation of 1943, Willie worked full time in the dime store. At the time of the death of our boy, on January 2, 1944, I was employed by the Bond-Howell Lumber Company of Live Oak. My boss, Mr. Howell, had asked me to come down that Sunday morning, January 2, to help him take inventory. I left my home early that morning, and was working at my job in the middle of the morning when a car drove up to the Bond-Howell Lumber Company. Mr. Phil Goff got out of the car, and asked Miss Howell, who was in the front office, the whereabouts of Mr. Howell. She informed him that Mr. Howell was in the back. Mr. Goff then came back to where Mr. Howell was, and asked him if he could use me for about an hour. Mr. Howell said he didn't know, that they were busy taking inventory, and what did he want with me. Mr. Goff replied that he needed me on business. Mr. Howell said it was allright. Then Mr. Howell called me and told me to go with Mr. Goff. When I went outside, I saw my boy in the car. Just then the door of the car was opened. Mr. Mac McCulla sat on the back seat and had a gun drawn. There was another white man there whose name I do not know. I was pushed into the car by Mr. Goff, and the car was driven off by him in the direction of the Suwannee River. No conversation took place in the car. My boy, Willie, attempted to talk with me, but Mr. Goff told him to "shut up." Driving from Live Oak to the Suwannee River, Mr. Goff took the Jasper Highway; about a mile before reaching Suwannee Springs, he turned off the highway onto a clay road, and then took out across the woods to the River. We reached the River, still in Suwannee County. Mr. Goff drove up to the river, and turned the car around and parked. Mr. Goff and Mr. McCulla got out of the car. Mr. Goff went to the back of the car and got two ropes. Mr. McCulla and Mr. Goff tied my boy's hands and feet with it. After that, they made me get out of the car and stand Willie up at the very edge of the River. This action was at the front of their guns. Then Mr. Goff pulled out a piece of paper and asked me:

"Do you approve of what we are doing?"

I replied, "No, sir."

Mr. Goff asked Willie, "Do you know the penalty of your crime?"

Willie, who was dazed and crying, replied "Yes, sir."

Mr. Goff got behind Willie with his gun, while the other men stood around me. I wanted to ask some questions, but Mr. Goff told me to shut up. Later Mr. Goff said to me "You can say anything you want now."

I said "Willie, I cannot do anything for you now. I'm glad I have belonged to the Church and prayed for you."

Willie said to me, "Father, you can take my pocket book," which I did.

Mr. Goff said to Willie "You can either jump into the River, or take what is in this gun." Willie fell into the River.

Then, without letting me get my boy out of the river, or doing anything themselves to save him, they immediately got into the car. They made me get in with them, and then drove back towards Live Oak. Before reaching Live Oak, Mr. Goff, who was waving his gun, said to me: "If you say anything other than what we say took place, you will get the same thing that Willie got - with pleasure." Then they drove on to the

Bond-Howell Lumber Company and put me out. I went into the office, and met my wife. She asked me what was wrong; I was not able to answer, being afraid. I took her home. Then I started back to work.

Before I got back to the Bond-Howell Lumber Company, I met Chief Hunter and Mr. Wylie Bird. They stopped me, and asked me to go down to the Court House with them. I did. Mr. Goff, Chief Hunter and Wylie Bird were there. Chief Hunter went out and got the sheriff, whose name is Tom Henry. All sat around the table, Mr. Goff facing me.

Mr. Goff then outlined what he claimed had happened. He informed the sheriff that he took Willie and me to the River; that he had asked Willie if he had written a certain letter, and that Willie said he had; that he, Mr. Goff, had put a switch so that I should whip the boy. He said I had tied the boy's hands and feet, in order to prevent him from running away while being whipped. Mr. Goff said that Willie had remarked that he would not take a whipping from his father or any damn white man. According to Mr. Goff, Willie had crawled over and fallen into the River, and the three white men made an effort to save the boy. Mr. Goff stated that Willie had given his daughter a Christmas Card. They asked me whether that was correct, and I said "Yes," in view of the threat that was made to me on the road.

Then the sheriff, Tom Henry, proceeded to write. Mr. Goff also took a piece of paper and wrote something on it, and asked me to sign the statement, which I did. I do not know what was in the statement.

On that same Sunday night, the sheriff got me and took me to the Tax Collector's office. Present were the tax collector, H.H. Hair, Jr., Mr. Goff, and Tom Henry (sheriff). Mr. Henry told me he wanted me to sign a paper, since there was not to be an inquest, and that the paper would answer for same. Some paper was read to me, but I was so excited and in such mortal fear of Mr. Goff, that I didn't know what was in the paper, and signed it.

Several days later I told my wife what had taken place. Lula and I made up our minds to sell our house and to leave Live Oak. On January 7 we left town and came to Orlando. We have lived in Orlando ever since.

A few weeks ago a white man came to see Lula and I here in Orlando. He claimed to be a lawyer from Madison, Florida, and said he was sent by the Government. This white man asked my wife and I if certain affidavits which I had signed in Live Oak on January 2 were true. I did not know who this man was, and was afraid. I told him that the affidavits were not true.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO

before me this 19th day

of March, 1944.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

My name is Lela Howard. I am thirty-four years of age. I was born and raised at Live Oak, Florida. I stopped going to school when I was in the sixth grade. In 1927 I married James Howard in Live Oak, Florida. Shortly after our marriage, we bought a home on the outskirts of Live Oak, where we lived until January 7, 1944. Our only child, a boy whom we christened Willie James Howard, was born on July 13, 1928. At the time of his death, on January 2, 1944, he was in the tenth grade in school. My husband and I were members of the Missionary Baptist Church in Live Oak. My husband was employed by the Bond-Howell Lumber Company. From the time our son was six years of age, I worked on various day jobs in Live Oak. From the time our boy Willie was thirteen years of age, he worked before and after school and during vacations. In the fall of 1943, he secured a part time job with the Veg Priest Dine Store in Live Oak, which was operated by Mrs. Dohi in the absence of her husband, who was in the Army. During the Christmas vacation of 1943, our boy Willie worked full time in the dine store.

On Sunday, January 2, 1944, my husband James had gone off to work for his employer, Bond-Howell Lumber Company; his boss was Mr. R.L. Howell. Later that morning, an automobile which contained three white men drove up to my house. The three men got out of the car; two of them stood at the gate of the house. The name of one of these men was Mr. McGalla. The other man's name is unknown to me. The third man, whose name was Mr. Phil Goff, came to the door. The following conversation took place:

QUESTION: "Where is James?"

ANSWER: "He has gone to work."

QUESTION: "Where is he working?"

ANSWER: "At the Bond-Howell Lumber Company."

QUESTION: "Where is Willie James?"

ANSWER: "He is out in the back."

Just then Willie came into the house, and Mr. Goff grabbed hold of him and told him to come along. I tried to pull him away, and also kept pleading and asking what Willie had done. By this time Mr. Goff had pulled a revolver out from somewhere on his person and leveled it at me. He dragged Willie out to the car, got in with the other white men, and drove off in the direction of Live Oak. I ran after the car, which got away from me. I then went to the Bond-Howell Lumber Company to tell my husband what had occurred. I learned from Miss Howell that the same car with the same men had come, had taken James along, and that they had driven off. I waited in the Bond-Howell office for about an hour. When my husband came back, he told me that Willie was not coming home, but he did not tell me what had taken place. My husband seemed terribly afraid of something. He took me home, and then went back to work.

Several days later my husband told me what had happened, and being in fear for our lives, we decided to sell the house and to leave Live Oak. We did this, and left Live Oak on Friday, January 7, going to Orlando, Florida, where we have lived ever since.

Some weeks after we came to Orlando, a white man who claimed to be a lawyer from Madison, Florida, and said he was sent by the Government, came to our house in Orlando and asked my husband and myself whether certain affidavits which my husband had signed in Live Oak on January 2 were true or not. We did not know who this white man was, and were afraid to tell him anything, except that my husband did tell him that the affidavits were not true.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 19th day
of March, 1944.

STATE OFFICERS

HARRY T. MOORE, PRESIDENT
BOX 4, MIMS

DR. C. F. DUNCAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
417 1/2 BROAD ST., JACKSONVILLE

FRANK C. BURTS, VICE-PRESIDENT
225 E. LAKE AVE., TAMPA

TRICE MCLIN, SECRETARY
JACKSON ST., N., ST. PETERSBURG

EMMA A. PICKETT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
81 N. DRYAN ST., ORLANDO

REV. K. S. JOHNSON, TREASURER
601 GYPRESS AVE., SANFORD

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

National Association

FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

Mims, Fla.

March 25, 1944

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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EDITOR, THE CRISIS

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SPECIAL COUNSEL

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E. NORMAN LACEY
EARL E. BROUGHTON

VOLUSIA COUNTY
ALLEN L. ATTAWAY

WEST PALM BEACH
REV. E. J. JACKSON

Mr. Roy Wilkins
60 Fifth Ave.
New York 3, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wilkins:

On January 2, 1944, Willie James Howard, a Negro boy, was lynched near Live Oak, Sumner County, Fla. I first read about this incident in the Pittsburgh Courier, where it was reported as a rumored lynching. Later, however, I learned from some of my relatives who live in Sumner County that this boy really had disappeared. Early this month Rev. R. H. Johnson, vice-president of the Orange County Branch, managed to locate the boy's parents, who are now living in Orlando.

Sunday, March 12, our Board of Directors held a meeting in Orlando. We had Mr. and Mrs. Howard to come in and give us the details of their sad experience. Last Christmas Willie James sent Christmas cards to all employees of the ten-cent store where he was working. One white girl, the daughter of Phil Goff, felt insulted because she had received Christmas greetings from a Negro. In some way Willie James of her displeasure and wrote a letter of apology. The girl gave the letter to her father, and this led to the lynching. Rev. Johnson learned from the principal of the Negro High School in Live Oak that Willie James had a very commendable record.

I was born and reared in Sumner County, and I know something about the racial situation up there. The Ku Klux Klan has been active around there during recent years. Negroes have suffered much brutality at the hands of white people. Negroes are so cowed that there is never any talk of voting or exercising any of the fundamental rights of citizenship by Negroes. Mrs. Howard was born and reared about two miles from my old home. We have known each other since we were children.

We are anxious to have a Federal investigation of this case. We feel that it will be practically a waste of time to seek help from state authorities. Last summer we protested to Gov. Holland the lynching of Collier Harrison in Jackson County. The Governor replied that an investigation was being made, but we have heard no more from this case.

We are sending copies of the parents' sworn statements to you and to Attorney S. D. McGill of Jacksonville, who was recently elected chairman of our Legal Redress Committee. Please try to get the Department of Justice behind this case. If you wish to get in direct touch with the parents, write Rev. R. H. Johnson, box 127, Maitland, Fla. The State Conference is ready to do anything possible to help secure justice in this matter.

Please let us hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

STATE OFFICERS

HARRY T. MOORE, PRESIDENT
BOX 4, MIMS

DR. C. F. DUNCAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
417 1/2 BROAD ST., JACKSONVILLE

FRANK C. BURTS, VICE-PRESIDENT
226 E. LAKE AVE., TAMPA

BEATRICE MCLIN, SECRETARY
5 JACKSON ST., N., ST. PETERSBURG

MA A. PICKETT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
61 N. BRYAN ST., ORLANDO

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601 CYPRESS AVE., SANFORD

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VOLUSIA COUNTY
ALLEN L. ATTAWAY

WEST PALM BEACH
REV. E. J. JACKSON

P. O. Box 127
Maitland, (Eatonville) Florida
March 23, 1944

Prof. Harry T. Moore, President
Florida State Conference NAACP
Box 4
Mims, Florida

My dear Friend and Co-Worker:

Inclosed herewith find six copies of affidavit.
Three each for Mr. and Mrs Howard.

You will recall that we planed to have four copies
made but instead the attorney prepared six, due
to the fact that he had to make them separate.
This will provide a copy each for your office, a
copy each for the National office and a copy
each for the Investigators.

Prof. Moore, I trust that everything is moving along
nicely and that this will be a banner ^{year} for our instit-
ution.

Please advise me as to whether you are going to attend
the National Convention and where it is to be held.

My wife joins me in best wishes to you and yours for
continued good luck in every way. I am

Respectfully yours,

R. H. Johnson
R. H. Johnson

RHJ:er

MARION COUNTY BRANCH
OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

BRANCH OFFICERS

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VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES H. HARRIS, JR.
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JOHN A. BUGGS
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HANSEL MAXEY
MRS. MATILDA EDWARDS
MRS. R. R. BAILEY
EDWARD MAXEY
W. E. WALTHALL
MRS. C. STUCKMAN

502 West Broadway
Ocala, Florida
April 26, 1944

Mr. Harry T. Moore
President State Conference of
N. A. A. C. P. Branches
Mims, Florida

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am sorry that I have been exceptionally busy and have not had time to answer your letter. It will be practically impossible for me to set up a branch in West Florida because of the shortage of help, et cetera.

We are planning to enter a suit here because we have been refused permission to register as Democrats. Other organizations throughout the state have indicated their willingness to support us in this move, and we want to know whether the State Branches will volunteer to set a quota to be raised in support of this case which will be state-wide in its decision. Attorney L. E. Thomas is the lawyer and he has set his fee at twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500.00).

Please let me hear from you immediately.

Yours truly,

Edward D. Davis
Edward D. Davis

MARION COUNTY BRANCH
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FOR THE
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MRS. MATILDA EDWARDS
MRS. R. R. BAILEY
EDWARD MAXEY
W. E. WALTHALL
MRS. C. STUCKMAN

May 2, 1944

Mr. Edward D. Davis, President
Marion County Branch, N. A. A. C. P.
502 West Broadway
Ocala, Florida

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thanks for your letter of April 26 concerning
the registration case.

Before any action is taken for a civil suit I
suggest that you have the persons involved make
full affidavits as to what happened and send us
two copies of these affidavits. We will then
refer them to the United States Department of
Justice urging that criminal action be insti-
tuted against the registration officials.

It would be helpful if you would get the co-
operation of Attorney Thomas in the preparation of
these briefs. If we are unsuccessful in getting
criminal prosecution there will be plenty of time
to consider the question of civil action for
damages.

Sincerely yours,

Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

MARION COUNTY BRANCH

N. A. A. C. P.

OFFICE OF

President

502 West Broadway
Ocala, Florida



3458
Mr. Harry T. Moore
President State Conference of
N. A. A. C. P. Branches
Mims, Florida

MARION COUNTY BRANCH
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W. E. WALTHALL
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502 West Broadway
Ocala, Florida
May 8, 1944

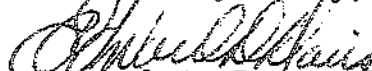
Mr. Harry T. Moore
President State Conference of
N. A. A. C. P. Branches
Mims, Florida

Dear sir:

Thank you for your very prompt reply to my letter regarding the proposed legal action against the Supervisor of Registration here. The enclosed copy will give a comprehensive knowledge of the status at the present time. We are asking Lawyer L. E. Thomas to make up the affidavits, and we are hoping to submit them to the New York Office this week. In the event no criminal action is taken we plan to go through with the civil damage suit.

Please arrange to have Mr. N. W. Griffin spend some time with us when he comes to the state. I will appreciate your sending to me Mr. Griffin's address.

Yours very truly,


Edward D. Davis

Enclosure (1)

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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ARTHUR B. SPINGARN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
DR. LOUIS T. WRIGHT
VING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
HON. CHARLES E. TONEY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, 3 N. Y.

TELEPHONE: ALGONQUIN 4-3550

Official Organ: *The Crisis*



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(ON LEAVE IN ARMED SERVICES)
ASSISTANT FIELD SECRETARIES
RUBY H. HURLEY YOUTH SECRETARY
LESLIE S. PERRY
FRANK D. REEVES (ON LEAVE)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS,
WASHINGTON BUREAU

May 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Branches in areas affected by the Texas Primary decision
FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel
SUBJECT: Voting in Primary Elections

We have carefully gone over the decision in the Texas Primary case and are convinced that the decision authorizes the voting of Negroes in all primary elections both federal and state. There is no doubt that in some instances Negroes will be denied the right to vote despite this ruling by the United States Supreme Court. In all such instances we must handle all cases in such a manner as not to conflict with others.

Will you therefore see to it that qualified Negro electors present themselves to the polls for voting in the primary election and if refused, please have them make out affidavits as to the refusal and send them to this office. We will advise you as to further procedure in each instance.

Unless we correlate all of the activities along these lines, there is a possibility of one case injuring another. We solicit your cooperation in first clearing all cases with us in this office. Please follow the same procedure in any instances of refusal to register qualified Negro electors.

TM:AG

STATE OFFICERS

HARRY T. MOORE, PRESIDENT
BOX 4, MIMS

DR. C. F. DUNCAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
417 1/2 BROAD ST., JACKSONVILLE

FRANK C. BURTS, VICE-PRESIDENT
225 E. LAKE AVE., TAMPA

O. B. PRICE MC LIN, SECRETARY
JACKSON ST., N., ST. PETERSBURG

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61 N. BRYAN ST., ORLANDO

REV. K. S. JOHNSON, TREASURER
601 CYPRESS AVE., SANFORD

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

National Association

FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

Mims, Fla.

May 8, 1944

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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ALLEN L. ATTAWAY

WEST PALM BEACH
REV. E. J. JACKSON

Dear Co-workers :

After the U. S. Supreme Court handed down its favorable decision in the Texas Primary Case, Negroes in several Florida counties applied for registration as Democrats. We know definitely that such applications were denied in Brevard, Orange, Volusia, and Marion counties. It is quite evident, therefore, that registration officials in Florida are not recognizing the decision of the Supreme Court.

If we are to enjoy the full fruits of this decision, further action must be taken in the courts of Florida. Fortunately, the Marion County Branch has a client who is ready to carry this matter into the local courts. Attorney Lawson E. Thomas of Miami, member of the State Conference Legal Committee, has agreed to handle this case. The cost will be \$2500. President Edward D. Davis of the Marion County Branch says that other organizations have indicated a willingness to help finance this case.

We hereby urge the 25 branches in Florida to join whole-heartedly in this fight for the unlimited use of the ballot. We should raise at least \$1500 for this case. Your branch is asked to contribute ----- . Most branches, no doubt, can easily raise all, or most of their quota through contributions from members and friends. Race-minded pastors will ask their congregations to help you. If it takes some time to raise your full quota, please make a partial report at an early date. Then you can finish up later. Please make all money orders, or checks, to Dr. N. H. Jones, treasurer of Marion County Branch, Ocala; but mail these orders to Miss O. B. McLin, State Conference secretary, 335 N. Jackson St., St. Petersburg. The Conference can then keep a record of all amounts contributed. These figures will be published in the Conference Monthly News Letter.

In this momentous decision Justice Reed said : "Under our Constitution the great privilege of choosing his rulers may not be denied a man by the state because of his color". Let us act now to help end this gross discrimination that has haunted us for years.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore

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601 CYPRESS AVE., SANFORD

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

National Association FOR THE Advancement of Colored People

Mem. Fla.
May 3, 1944

NATIONAL OFFICERS

ARTHUR B. SPINGARN
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ALLEN L. ATTAWAY

WEST PALM BEACH
REV. E. J. JACKSON

Mr. Edward D. Davis, President
Marion County Branch, 1943
602 N. Broadway
Gaines, Fla.

My Dear Mr. Davis:

I was pleased to get your letter Monday, in which you mentioned plans to file suit against the registration officials of Marion County because of their refusal to register Negroes as Democrats. In view of the fact that most state officials are determined to ignore the recent decision of the Supreme Court, I feel that we have no other recourse but to seek relief in the courts of Florida.

Just before our books closed a colored man in Titusville sought registration as a Democrat, but was denied this privilege. We asked him if this suit in his name, but he refused. We also urged leaders in Orange County to have someone to try the officials there. Tuesday I received a letter from Orlando, stating that the Registrar there had refused to register Negroes as Democrats. I learned also that they refused to register Negroes as Democrats in Ireland.

I feel that most of our branches will support this fight, because a favorable decision in this case should benefit Negroes in all Florida counties. While I am unable now to say definitely what the branches will do, I feel that the Conference should be able to raise at least \$1000 or \$1500. I am confident that Brevard County can raise at least \$100. We now have 25 branches.

I am invited to visit the Ft. Pierce Branch May 14. Please send me any more details that you might have, so that I can speak about this case there.

I received a letter from Mr. Griffin yesterday. He plans to visit Florida in June.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

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Mims, Fla.
May 8, 1944

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Sincerely yours,

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